

CITY *Visions*

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF MORGAN HILL • MARCH 2001

Mobile Recreation Van Coming To A Park Near You

THE CITY'S new Mobile Recreation Van will be appearing at several City parks during Spring Break. City Recreation Leaders will lead children ages 6-10 in outdoor activities that are social and interactive.

The van will be outfitted with plenty of arts and crafts supplies, sports equipment, games, and more to keep children active and interested. Preregistration is recommended by April 13th. Come join the free fun. ☺

Article by Susie Gomez, Recreation Specialist, 779-7271

Recreation Van Stops - Dates & Locations



*Mon., April 16, 9:00-11:00 AM
Jackson Park, Trail Drive*

*Mon., April 16, 1:00 - 3:00 PM
Paradise Park, La Crosse Drive*

*Tues., April 17, 9:00-11:00 AM
Nordstrom Park, East Dunne
& Murphy Avenue*

*Tues., April 17, 1:00 - 3:00 PM
Community Park, Edmundson Avenue*

*Wed., April 18, 9:00 - 11:00 AM
Diana Park, Diana Avenue*

*Wed., April 18, 1:00 - 3:00 PM
Galvan Park, Crest Avenue*

*Thurs., April 19, 9:00 - 11:00 AM
Howard Wiechart Park, Via Del Castillo*

*Thurs., April 19, 1:00-3:00 PM
Civic Center Grassy Area*

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A Little Bigger - A Lot Better

DURING MARCH, you will notice several changes at City Hall that will significantly enhance customer service.

The most obvious change is the construction of a new western parking lot and addition of two new modular buildings, the Western Annex. The Annex will house both the Finance Department and the Business Assistance and Housing Services Department.

Since the Annex is located just off the new parking lot, customers conducting two of the most common activities at City Hall, paying their utility bill and learning about housing programs, will have a shorter walk and more-convenient visit to City Hall.

In addition, a new drop-off payment station for utility bills will be located in the new parking lot. Additional minor changes will occur inside City Hall to further improve customer service. ☺

Article by Anthony Eulo, Assistant To The City Manager, 779-7247,
teulo@ch.morgan-hill.ca.gov




Public Records Can Be Viewed At City Clerks Office

THE PUBLIC Records Act was created to "... guarantee access to information concerning the conduct of the people's business ... a fundamental and necessary right of every person in this state." This general requirement for disclosure was made "mindful of the right to ... privacy," acknowledging a potential conflict between the right of public access to government records versus the right of privacy of persons who are the subject of records.

In light of this potential conflict, the legislature has required an agency withholding information to justify so by either showing that an exemption applies or that the public interest in not disclosing information outweighs the public's interest in disclosure.

As a general rule, all public records are open to the public, subject to the aforementioned balancing test or an exemption, if applicable. Public records are defined as any written or electronic file containing information related to the conduct of the public's business prepared, owned, used or retained by any state or local agency, regardless of physical form or characteristics.

The Office of the City Clerk is responsible for safely keeping and disposing of records which are on file at the City of Morgan Hill. The City Clerk's office archives City Records per the Public Records Act. Examples of records include ordinances, resolutions, contracts, agreements, listings of Boards and Commissions, and Statements of Economic Interests. Each Department of the City also maintains records pertinent to their respective department.

Public records are open to the public, unless exempt from disclosure. If you are interested in viewing public records, please visit the Office of the City Clerk at 17555 Peak Avenue or call 779-7259. Your request will be processed in accordance with Government Code Section 6253. 

Article by Irma Torrez, City Clerk, 779-7259


Be Behind the Bus

STARTING APRIL 2, 2001, all buses operating through the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority and the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District will be using flashing red yield signs (mounted on the left rear of the buses) that direct motorists to yield the right of way to the bus and allow the bus to merge back into the active traffic lane.

Under California law, vehicles are required to yield the right of way to a transit bus under the following conditions:



1. The bus is attempting to get back into the traffic lane;
2. The bus has its directional signal on, indicating that it wants to get back into the lane;
3. The bus has a flashing yield sign on the left rear.

The violation is an infraction that carries a penalty of \$35.00. 

Article by Officer Rick Rodriguez, 779-2101

Dunne - Nearly Done

THE CONSTRUCTION of the Dunne Avenue Interchange is essentially complete and it is now open for full use. The interchange represents one of the City's largest construction projects in recent years in terms of complexity, impact on traffic/safety concerns, and cost.

In addition to improving traffic flow for residents, the new interchange will also enhance the community's economic development by making it easier for freeway traffic to get access to the downtown area and business parks.

About half of its \$5 million total cost will have been paid for with funds from the California Department of Transportation. Minor improvements, including landscaping, are all that remain to be done on this project. This work should be completed this Spring.

A lot of people have been asking questions about the new interchange. A common question has been "Why is one side lower than the other?"

When the original bridge was constructed in 1970, it had just a little more than 16 feet of vertical clearance and there was no

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Don't Miss Recycle Days April 20th & 21st

ON APRIL 20th & 21st, City of Morgan Hill residents will be able to drop off a variety of recyclable items at the San Martin Transfer Station free of charge. The transfer station is located at 14070 Llagas Avenue in San Martin, and is open 8 AM-4:30PM.

RESIDENTS SHOULD BRING

- Untreated and unpainted wood
- Metal appliances such as refrigerators, air conditioners, washers, dryers, and hot water heaters (there will be a \$15 charge for freon removal from appliances containing freon)
- Scrap metal: This includes bicycles, metal lawn mowers (fuel & oil removed), microwaves, etc.
- Clothes: Bring these materials dry and in plastic bags
- Computer Equipment



Recycle Days are only for the above materials that are properly separated and sorted. Residents bringing other materials will be charged for disposal at the normal transfer station rates.

ALL MATERIALS MUST BE SEPARATED

- If you bring in more than one material, please have them separated in your vehicle. You will need to drive to several areas at the transfer station to drop off recyclables in the appropriate areas. Commingled material may be charged as garbage unless it is separated.

DO NOT BRING

- Televisions, stereos, VCR's, etc.
- Household hazardous waste. If you have hazardous waste, call the Santa Clara County Household Hazardous Waste Hotline at 299-7300
- Treated, Painted or Compressed Wood or Particle Board

TO PARTICIPATE

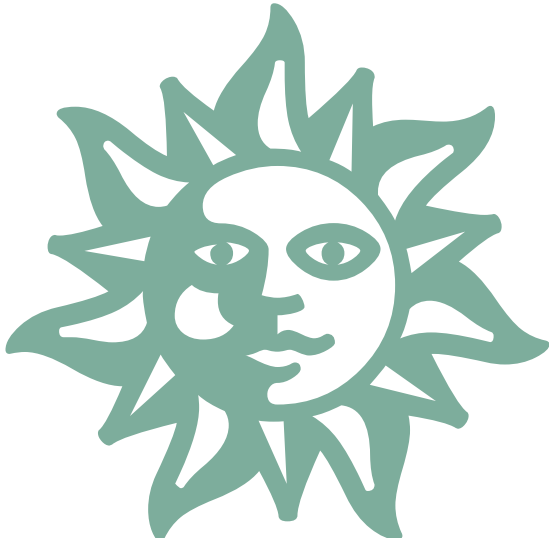
- Your garbage account must be current (no past due balance)
- Be prepared to show your driver's license

Event staff will have a list of customers printed to verify residence. For more information, contact the Environmental Programs Division at 779-7247 or environ@ch.morgan-hill.ca.gov.

Article by Anthony Eulo, Environmental Programs Division Manager, 779-7247, teulo@ch.morgan-hill.ca.gov



Great ways to celebrate Earth Day, everyday...



Energy Conservation

California's energy challenge is expected to remain throughout the year. As energy prices increase and supplies become more precious, now is the time to invest in energy-efficiency enhancements to your home. Did you know that:



Homes with the correct insulation use half of the energy that homes without insulation use.



Shade trees can reduce cooling costs 20-40 percent depending on where you place them.



Compact fluorescent bulbs last up to ten times longer than regular light bulbs and use just a fraction of the electricity.

For more ideas, call 779-7247 to request your free copy of Energy Savers.

Use Less Stuff

If you think about it, nearly everything we purchase and consume results in the generation and release of pollution somewhere around the world and the depletion of resources. The less stuff we consume, the less pollution we create and the fewer resources we consume.

In short, pay attention to the weight of the items you consume and in general choose lighter alternatives.

SIX TIPS TO BUYING LESS:

- Shop with attitude. Get in and out as quickly as possible. The more time spent shopping the more money you'll spend.
- Use a the smaller shopping basket. You'll be less likely to over shop if you have to carry it around.
- Don't chat with the store personnel. Research shows your more likely to feel obligated to buy something the more you talk.
- Try to stay out of the main center aisles where the tempting impulse buys are located.
- Shop from a list.
- Check "bargains" carefully.

Water Conservation

While our landscape needs additional water when the temperature soars, remember to water less when the temperature drops. A lot of water is wasted when the weather cools and we forget to water less.

- Water during the early morning hours when temperatures and wind speed are the lowest. This reduces loss from evaporation.
- Position your sprinklers so that your water lands on the lawn and shrubs... not the paved areas.
- Use a broom to clean leaves and other debris from paved areas instead of a hose. Using a hose to clean a driveway can waste hundreds of gallons of water.
- Your garden hose can pour out a whopping 600 hundred gallons - or more - in just a few hours. Don't leave your sprinkler running all day.

**Remember, saving water,
saves energy!**

Article by Anthony Eulo, Environmental Programs Division Manager, 779-7247, teulo@ch.morgan-hill.ca.gov

The Year That Changes The World

THE UNITED Nations has designated 2001 as the International Year of Volunteers (IYV) - The Year that Changes the World. The United States' vision for IYV 2001 is to challenge all Americans to recognize our shared traditions of volunteering and commit to volunteering as a unifying force to build strong communities.

The US goals are to engage more individuals, groups, and organizations in volunteer service; to create awareness of the formal and informal ways in which people can and do volunteer to benefit their communities; to empower more individuals, groups, and organizations to lead, mobilize, and serve through capacity building resources and opportunities; to encourage communities to coalesce around IYV 2001, building substantial partnerships that will support volunteer service and volunteering systems; and to recognize more individuals, groups and communities for their commitment to volunteer service.

If you have ideas for an activity that supports these goals and would like to help the City of Morgan Hill become a US partner in IYV 2001, please contact Karen Lengsfeld, Coordinator of Volunteers Services, at 779-7278.

Visit the IYV website at <http://www.iyv2001.org>. ☞

*Article by Karen Lengsfeld, Volunteer Services Coordinator,
779-7278, Lengsfeld@ch.morgan-hill.ca.gov*

Local Programming Channel 17

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

4/4 7PM Live	4/5 Noon Replay	4/8 Noon Replay
4/18 7PM Live	4/19 Noon Replay	4/22 Noon Replay
4/25 7PM Live	4/26 Noon Replay	4/29 Noon Replay

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS

4/10 7PM Live	4/11 Noon Replay	4/14 Noon Replay
4/24 7PM Live	4/25 Noon Replay	4/28 Noon Replay

MORGAN HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MEMORIES- ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Mondays & Tuesdays Noon

BICYCLE SAFETY

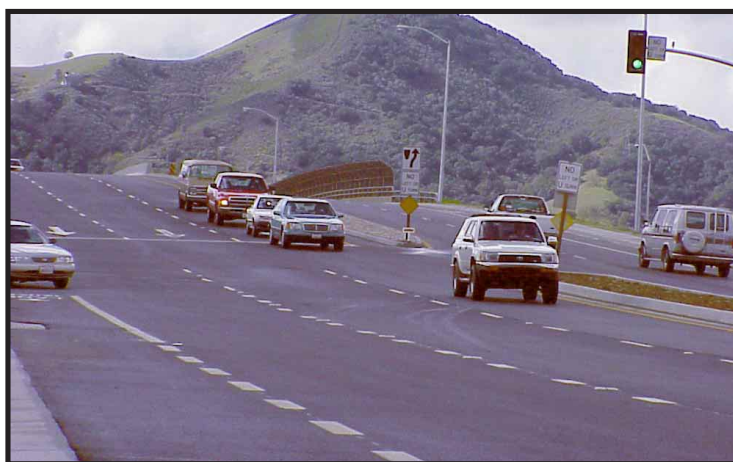
10:30AM & 5:30PM Daily

WATER WISE GARDENING AND GRASSCYCLING

9:30AM & 4:30PM Daily



Photo Above: February 2000; traffic crossing over the Dunne Avenue bridge, heading east on the two available lanes. Single lane (at far right) was for west-bound traffic. Below Photo: One year later, traffic utilizing three new east-bound lanes for a total of five lanes on the overpass.



• "DUNNE" FROM PAGE 2

freeway traffic running under the bridge. (That's right...until 1984 the only way to San Jose was straight up Monterey Road!) Today, updated design standards call for nearly 19 feet of vertical clearance. Therefore the new eastbound bridge is 2 1/5 feet higher than the old westbound bridge.

Additionally, the new bridge is slightly longer than the existing bridge to accommodate the loop on-ramp. The original design assumed a one-lane on-ramp. The new on-ramp was designed with two lanes to accommodate a high occupancy vehicle bypass lane. This requires a bridge design slightly longer than the original bridge. ☞

Article by Jay Jaso, Management Analyst, 776-7337, jayj@pw.morgan-hill.ca.gov

COMMUNITY Event CALENDAR

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS • A PRIL 1

41ST ANNUAL MORGAN HILL MATSURI FESTIVAL • A PRIL 1

The Northern California Taiko Exposition will be a featured attraction at this event from 10:30 AM - 5:30 PM. Foods, exhibits, displays, martial arts demonstrations, and traditional music will also be featured at this springtime celebration of the Japanese American Community. Admission is free. Call 779-9009 for more information.

MORGAN HILL LIBRARY BOOK SALES • A PRIL 7 & 18

The Library holds book sales monthly. Call 779-3197 for more information.

COMPOST WORKSHOP • A PRIL 10

Attendees of Morgan Hill Home Composting workshops discover the benefits of gardening using their own compost. The next class is scheduled for Tuesday, April 10, from 7-9 PM at the YMCA. To register for this free workshop, call the Home Composting Education Program at 299-4147.

BELOW MARKET RATE HOUSING SEMINARS • A PRIL 12 & 26

Seminars are held monthly at the City Council Chambers. Call 776-7373 to reserve your space.

RECYCLING DAYS • A PRIL 20 & 21

See page 3 or contact the Environmental Programs Division at 779-7247.

EARTH DAY • A PRIL 22

See page 4 for great ways to celebrate.

FLOWER SHOW • A PRIL 28 & 29

The Morgan Hill Flower Lovers' Club will hold their annual flower show at the Friendly Inn from 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM. This free event will include beautiful arrangements, a plant sale, bake sale, and demonstrations. Call 778-3617 for more information.



City Elected Officials

Mayor <i>Dennis Kennedy</i>	779-7259
Mayor Pro Tempore <i>Greg Sellers</i>	778-2370
Councilmember <i>Larry Carr</i>	779-9622
Councilmember <i>Hedy L. Chang</i>	778-0511
Councilmember <i>Steve Tate</i>	779-6992
City Clerk <i>Irma Torrez</i>	779-7259
City Treasurer <i>Michael Roorda</i>	778-3653



City Executive Staff

City Manager <i>J. Edward Tewes</i>
City Attorney <i>Helene L. Leichter</i>
Business Assistance/Housing Services Director <i>Garrett Toy</i>
Community Development Director <i>David Bischoff</i>
Council Services and Records Manager <i>Irma Torrez</i>
Finance Director <i>Jack Dilles</i>
Acting Human Resources Manager <i>Melissa Stevenson Dile</i>
Police Chief <i>Steve Schwab</i>
Public Works Director <i>Jim Ashcraft</i>
Recreation Manager <i>Julie Spier</i>



Contacting Your City

Hours: Monday - Friday, 8AM to 5PM
Address: 17555 Peak Avenue, Morgan Hill, CA 95037

Animal Control	776-7300
Building Inspection	779-7241
Business Assistance & Housing Services	776-7373
City Clerk	779-7259
City Manager	779-7271
Environmental Programs	779-7247
Finance	779-7237
Fire Department (County Fire)	378-4010
Job Hotline	779-7276
Planning: Land Use / Zoning	779-7247
Police Administration	776-7315
Public Works	776-7337
Recreation	779-7271
Water	779-7221
Volunteer Programs	779-7278

City Hall Fax Number 779-3117
City Website: <http://www.morgan-hill.ca.gov>



Contact The Editor

Questions or comments about City Visions are welcome. Contact Editor Anthony Eulo at 779-7247 or environ@ch.morgan-hill.ca.gov. City Visions is published monthly by the City of Morgan Hill.